

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 2-16 and 18-42 were pending. By the present response, claims 23, 28-29, 31-32, and 38 have been amended and claims 27, 30 and 42 canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2-16 and 18-41 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims and the drawing figures.

Entry of the forgoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for at least the following reasons. First, the amendments address the new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, thereby reducing the number of issues present upon appeal. Second, the amendments raise no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination. Third, the amendments clearly overcome the grounds of rejection.

***TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER***

Applicant appreciates the time afforded by the Examiner in the telephone interview of April 18, 2005. During the interview, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection was discussed, including presenting some features in the active voice. The amendments to claim 38 are consistent with the telephone conversation.

***CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112***

Claims 38-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action.

By the present response, applicant has amended claim 38 in a manner which addresses the above-noted rejection. Particularly, claim 38 now positively recites the feature of lifting a trailing edge of the folded sheet over a leading edge of the sheet to invert the sheet and to place the inverted sheet onto a saddle with a peak of a fold in the sheet pointing upward. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102***

Claims 23-29 and 33-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,897,051 to Muller (hereafter "*Muller*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 5 of the Official Action. Claims 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,692,300 to Mebus (hereafter "*Mebus*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. These rejections are moot in view of the enclosed amendments, by which allowable claim 30 and intervening claim 27 have been amended to independent claim 23. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103***

Claims 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mebus* in view of *Muller* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 8 of the Official

Action. This rejection is moot in view of the enclosed amendments, by which allowable claim 30 and intervening claim 27 have been amended to independent claim 23. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2-16 and 18-22 are allowed and that claims 30-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form as noted in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Official Action. By the present response, the features of allowable claim 30 and intervening claim 27 have been amended to independent claim 23. Therefore, claims 2-16, 18-26, 28-29 and 31-37 are also allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

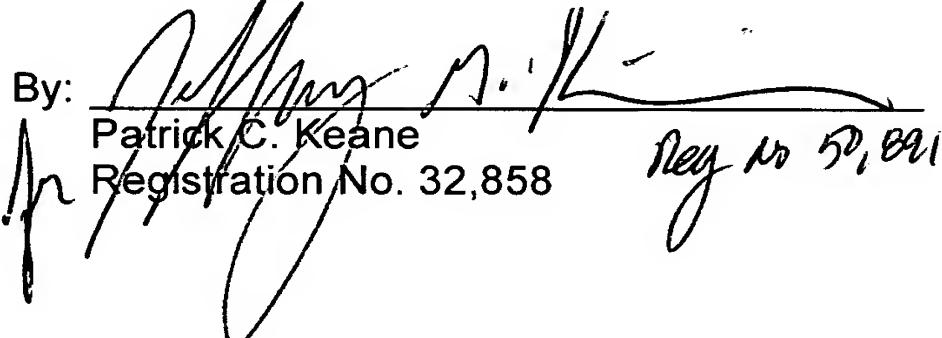
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 2, 2005

By:

  
Patrick C. Keane  
Registration No. 32,858

*Reg No 50,891*

Hewlett-Packard Company  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

(703) 836-6620